

Message

From: Wirick, Holiday [wirick.holiday@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/2/2021 6:37:15 PM
To: Kathleen Mayo [kathleen_mayo@comcast.net]
Subject: Re: your tribal question - E. Coli

Kathy, thank you so much for your reply!!! I thought that I'd seen 0 or 1 EC cfu for a cultural use - ingestion number but wanted to check in with you - though I hate bugging you with a work question!

Tahiti - holy moly - AMAZING photos - I'm so jelly - and incredibly happy for you that you have been on the first of what I'm sure is many trips of a lifetime!! Woo hoo!!!!

Have a fabulous 4th girl!!!!

From: KATHLEEN MAYO <kathleen_mayo@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Wirick, Holiday <wirick.holiday@epa.gov>
Subject: your tribal question - E. Coli

Hi Holly,

Sorry for my late reply. I forwarded your text to my email so I could write more quickly. Here's what you sent:

Fwd:Hey Kathy lucky lady!! I'm betting you are having the summer of your life!! woo hoo!!! Hey so I have a cultural use Q. I'm working with Standing Rock and they want low EC #s for cultural use. I thought one of R5's Tribes had WQC for their cultural DU of 100 EC cfu/100. I'm checking WATA now (GP and LDF) but thought I'd check in with you too. Thanks - and sorry to bug you with a work q. It's been so busy! Just completed SD's triennial review last week and ND's WQS came in 6/18. Aaaahhhh I need to take to take a breath! You are soooo lucky!!!!

Hi Holly,

Grand Portage updated their rec criteria consistent with EPA's latest info at their last triennial review. I don't recall if they have more protective values than the basic recreational use protection, tho. Sorry, my trip to Tahiti wiped out all my memories of work, lol. I usually have a handful of questions per month from EPA'ers and realized I'm losing the info. Either gettin' old, or my brain just wants to focus on travel and other things. Here's my opinion tho:

The value of the E. Coli colony forming units depends on what the designated use includes. For example, if the designated use includes tribal ceremonial uses that involve the direct ingestion of untreated surface water, a Tribe would certainly be able to have zero a E.Coli standard for that water body. Think of it - Would you want to take a sip of fecal bacteria, even if it's 1 CFU?!! If the cultural use does not involve direct ingestion of water, I think the Tribe can easily recalculate the criteria depending on the illness rate they would find acceptable. Diane Evans in R6 is a good contact to check with on this issue. I think she has some Tribes that have done this.

I hope all is well and you have fun plans for the holiday weekend. Heck you are probably already on the go with vacation plans. I know you!!

Keep in touch. I love to hear from you!
Kathy

